

1 EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
Attorney General of California  
2 GREGORY J. SALUTE  
Supervising Deputy Attorney General  
3 KEVIN J. RIGLEY  
Deputy Attorney General  
4 State Bar No. 131800  
300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702  
5 Los Angeles, CA 90013  
Telephone: (213) 620-2558  
6 Facsimile: (213) 897-2804  
*Attorneys for Complainant*  
7

8 **BEFORE THE**  
9 **BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING**  
10 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**  
**STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

11 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 2010-344

12 **CARLA MAE JOSEPH**  
13 1306 West 50th Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90037

**A C C U S A T I O N**

14 Registered Nurse License No. 521305  
15 Public Health Nurse License No. 56693

16  
17 Respondent.

18  
19 Complainant alleges:

20 **PARTIES**

21 1. Louise R. Bailey, M.Ed., RN (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her  
22 official capacity as the Interim Executive Officer of the Board of Registered Nursing (Board).

23 2. On or about April 23, 1996, the Board issued Registered Nurse License Number  
24 521305 to Carla Mae Joseph (Respondent). The Registered Nurse License, which was in full  
25 force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein until it expired on February 28,  
26 2010, has not been renewed.

27 ///

28 ///

3. On or about November 27, 1996, the Board issued Public Health Nurse License Number 56693 to Respondent. The Public Health Nurse License, which was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein until it expired on February 28, 2010, has not been renewed.

## JURISDICTION

4. This Accusation is brought before the Board, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.

5. Section 2750 of the Business and Professions Code ("Code") provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may discipline any licensee, including a licensee holding a temporary or an inactive license, for any reason provided in Article 3 (commencing with section 2750) of the Nursing Practice Act.

6. Section 2764 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the expiration of a license shall not deprive the Board of jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary proceeding against the licensee or to render a decision imposing discipline on the license.

7. Section 118 of the Code states:

...

"(b) The suspension, expiration, or forfeiture by operation of law of a license issued by a board in the department, or its suspension, forfeiture, or cancellation by order of the board or by order of a court of law, or its surrender without the written consent of the board, shall not, during any period in which it may be renewed, restored, reissued, or reinstated, deprive the board of its authority to institute or continue a disciplinary proceeding against the licensee upon any ground provided by law or to enter an order suspending or revoking the license or otherwise taking disciplinary action against the licensee on any such ground.

"(c) As used in this section, 'board' includes an individual who is authorized by any provision of this code to issue, suspend, or revoke a license, and 'license' includes 'certificate,' 'registration,' and 'permit.'"

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8. Section 125.3 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the Board/Registrar/Director may request the administrative law judge to direct a licensee found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

9. Section 820 of the Code states:

"Whenever it appears that any person holding a license, certificate or permit under this division or under any initiative act referred to in this division may be unable to practice his or her profession safely because the licensee's ability to practice is impaired due to mental illness, or physical illness affecting competency, the licensing agency may order the licensee to be examined by one or more physicians and surgeons or psychologists designated by the agency. The report of the examiners shall be made available to the licensee and may be received as direct evidence in proceedings conducted pursuant to Section 822."

10. Section 822 of the Code provides, in pertinent part:

“If a licensing agency determines that its licentiate’s ability to practice his or her profession safely is impaired because the licentiate is mentally ill, or physically ill affecting competency, the licensing agency may take action by any one of the following methods:

“(a) Revoking the licentiate’s certificate or license.

“(b) Suspending the licentiate’s right to practice.

“(c) Placing the licentiate on probation.

“(d) Taking such other action in relation to the licentiate as the licensing agency in its discretion deems proper.”

## FACTUAL BACKGROUND

11. An investigation conducted by the Board resulted in a finding that Respondent may be mentally ill to the extent that her ability to practice safely as a registered nurse may be impaired. Thereafter, on January 21, 2010, in case number 2010-344 titled *In the Matter of the Petition and Order to Compel Psychiatric Examination of Carla Mae Joseph*, the Board ordered Respondent to undergo a psychiatric examination pursuant to Code section 820. (A copy of the Petition and Order is attached hereto as Exhibit 1 and incorporated herein by reference.) A

1 psychiatric examination of Respondent was then conducted by Richard S. Sandor, M.D. on March  
2 5, 2010, at the Board's request. Thereafter, in a written report dated March 8, 2010, Dr. Sandor  
3 concluded that Respondent currently has a psychiatric disorder which makes her unable to  
4 practice nursing safely.

5 The Board's Investigation

6 12. On or about December 3, 2007, a Complaint Intake Analyst (BRN analyst) with the  
7 Board received a phone call from Respondent. Respondent told the BRN analyst that she is a  
8 schizophrenic and that voices in her head had been telling her that her two brothers and two  
9 sisters are "fake doctors and nurses". Respondent further elaborated on this by providing the  
10 BRN analyst with the actual names of those siblings and their alleged respective professions. On  
11 or about July 7, 2008, Board investigator Scott Vredenburg (Vredenburg) conducted on-line  
12 license verification searches in regard to the four siblings and confirmed that none of them were  
13 licensed physicians and/or registered nurses.

14 13. On or about December 14, 2007, Respondent wrote a letter to the Medical Board of  
15 California stating, "... I am writing to report the possibility that an Advance Cardiac Life Support  
16 Continuing Education Provider is teaching false information during their course and is likely  
17 organized by fake health care providers holding false licenses. They are named National Institute  
18 for Healthcare Education (Board of Registered Nursing Number 13886)."

19 14. On or about July 25, 2008, Board investigator Vredenburg spoke with Respondent  
20 by phone. Respondent told Vredenburg that when she was eight years old, a voice in her head  
21 told her that her brother had a fake medical license and that the voice, which was her brother's,  
22 would threaten to rape her if she told anyone about this. Respondent further stated to  
23 Vredenburg that she has been hearing voices in her head on a frequent basis since 1996.  
24 Respondent also told Vredenburg that there was a "communication device planted" in her body,  
25 and that the device monitors her conversations. Respondent further stated that these voices were  
26 telling her what to say to Vredenburg. Respondent also told Vredenburg that she does not  
27 know who planted the communication device, but that these voices are often those of her own  
28 immediate family. These voices threaten to rape her and also talk about molesting children.

1 Respondent has reported the threats and talk of child molestation to the police. Respondent  
2 further stated to Vredenburg that on occasions when she has reported such things to the police,  
3 they (the police) have taken her (Respondent) to the hospital, where she has been made to stay for  
4 about two weeks.

5 15. Respondent also revealed to Vredenburg during the above-referenced July 25, 2008  
6 phone conversation that she had been seen and treated in the mental health departments of Harbor  
7 UCLA Medical Center, UCLA Medical Center, Kaiser Sunset, and several other hospitals in the  
8 Los Angeles area. She also told Vredenburg that on one occasion, she was flying to New York  
9 and the plane stopped in Denver, Colorado, where she was admitted into a hospital for reasons  
10 Respondent either could not recall or did not know.

11 16. Respondent further informed Vredenburg during that same phone conversation on  
12 July 25, 2008 that she had been diagnosed with schizophrenia and that she had been receiving  
13 treatment for this condition at West Central Mental Health Center for the previous five years  
14 while under the care of psychiatrist C. Mohr, M.D., whom she has been seeing about once every  
15 six weeks. As of July 25, 2008, Respondent was taking numerous prescription medications on an  
16 ongoing basis, including Perphenazine. Respondent was (as of July 25, 2008) and currently is  
17 still on Social Security Disability.

18 Psychiatric Evaluation Conducted by Richard S. Sandor, M.D.

19 17. On January 21, 2010, based upon the foregoing factual history, a Petition and Order  
20 to Compel Psychiatric Examination was executed by the Board. Thereafter, at the Board's  
21 request, Richard S. Sandor, M.D. conducted a psychiatric examination/evaluation of Respondent  
22 on March 5, 2010. As a result thereof, Dr. Sandor prepared a written report on March 8, 2010,  
23 wherein he concluded that Respondent is now suffering from the clinical syndrome identified as  
24 "Schizophrenia, paranoid type". Dr. Sandor's written report on Respondent also includes the  
25 following opinions and conclusions:

26 "It seems quite clear that the actions which have raised questions  
27 about Ms. Joseph's capacity to practice nursing safely were a result  
28 of her psychiatric disorder. She definitely meets the criteria for

1 schizophrenia, paranoid type. She has subtle, though important  
2 cognitive deficits accompanying her disorder, and she is non-compliant  
3 with medications. Her insight is quite limited and her judgement is  
4 not reliably connected to intact reality testing. It is not safe for Ms.  
5 Joseph to practice nursing. Her prognosis, especially if she will not  
6 take anti-psychotic medication, is poor. Sadly, one of the consequences  
7 of her illness is the lack of insight that could help her deal with it.”

8 **FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

9 **(Inability to Practice Registered Nursing Safely Due to Mental Illness)**

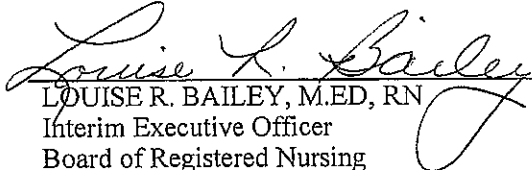
10 18. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code sections 820 and 822 in that  
11 she currently has a psychiatric disorder which makes her unable to practice registered nursing  
12 safely. Complainant refers to and by this reference hereby incorporates the allegations set forth  
13 above in paragraphs 11 through 17, inclusive, as though set forth fully.

14 **PRAYER**

15 WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged,  
16 and that following the hearing, the Board title issue a decision:

- 17 1. Revoking or suspending Registered Nurse License Number 521305, issued to Carla  
18 Mae Joseph;
- 19 2. Revoking or suspending Public Health Nurse License Number 56693, issued to Carla  
20 Mae Joseph;
- 21 3. Ordering Carla Mae Joseph to pay the Board the reasonable costs of the investigation  
22 and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3;
- 23 4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

24  
25 DATED: 7/20/10

  
LOUISE R. BAILEY, M.ED, RN  
Interim Executive Officer  
Board of Registered Nursing  
State of California  
Complainant

**Exhibit 1**

1 EDMUND G. BROWN, JR.  
Attorney General of California  
2 GREGORY J. SALUTE  
Supervising Deputy Attorney General  
3 KEVIN J. RIGLEY  
Deputy Attorney General  
4 State Bar No. 131800  
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8 **BEFORE THE**  
**BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING**  
9 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**  
10 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

11 In the Matter of the Petition and Order to  
Compel Psychiatric Examination Against:

12 **CARLA MAE JOSEPH**  
13 1306 West 50 Street  
Los Angeles, California 90037

14 Registered Nurse License No. 521305  
15 Public Health Nurse License No. 56693

16 Respondent.  
17

Case No. 2010-344

**PETITION AND ORDER TO  
COMPEL PSYCHIATRIC  
EXAMINATION  
(Bus. & Prof. Code § 820)**

18 Petitioner alleges:

19 **PARTIES**

20 1. Louise R. Bailey, M.Ed., RN, solely in her official capacity as the Interim  
21 Executive Officer of the Board of Registered Nursing, Department of Consumer Affairs, State of  
22 California (Board), hereby files this Petition and issues the following Order to Compel  
23 Psychiatric Examination.

24 **LICENSE INFORMATION**

25 **Registered Nurse License**

26 2. On or about April 23, 1996, the Board issued Registered Nurse License  
27 Number 521305 to Carla Mae Joseph (Respondent). The license will expire on February 28,  
28 2010, unless renewed.



1                   Public Health Nurse License

2                   3.       On or about November 27, 1996, the Board issued Public Health Nurse  
3 License Number 56693 to Respondent. The license will expire on February 28, 2010, unless  
4 renewed.

5                   JURISDICTION

6                   4.       Under Business and Professions Code ("Code") section 820, the Board  
7 may order a licensee to be examined by one or more physicians and surgeons or psychologist  
8 designated by the agency whenever it appears a licensee may be unable to practice his or her  
9 profession safely due to a mental or physical illness affecting competency.

10                  BASIS FOR PETITION AND ORDER

11                  5.       It appears that Respondent may be mentally or physically ill to the extent  
12 that her ability to practice safely as a registered nurse is impaired. A Board investigation has  
13 revealed the following:

14                  6.       On or about December 3, 2007, Kristie Powell (Powell), Complaint Intake  
15 Analyst with the Board, received a phone call from Respondent. Respondent told Powell that she  
16 is a schizophrenic and that the voices in her head are telling her about her brothers and sister  
17 being "fake" nurses and doctors<sup>1/</sup>.

18                  7.       On or about December 14, 2007, Respondent wrote a letter to the Medical  
19 Board of California stating, "... I am writing to report the possibility that an Advance Cardiac  
20 Life Support Continuing Education Provider is teaching false information during their course and  
21 is likely organized by fake health care providers holding false licenses. They are named National  
22 Institute for Healthcare Education (Board of Registered Nursing Number 13886)."

23                  8.       On or about July 25, 2008, Board investigator Scott Vredenburgh  
24 (Vredenburgh), spoke with Respondent by phone. Respondent told Vredenburgh that when she  
25 was eight years old, a voice in her head told her that her brother had a fake medical license and  
26 that the voice, which was her brother's, would threaten to rape her if she told anyone about this.

27 \_\_\_\_\_  
28 1. None of Respondent's siblings are nurses or doctors.

1 Respondent stated that she has been hearing voices in her head since 1996. Respondent also told  
2 Vredenburg that there was a communication device planted in her body, and that the device  
3 monitors her conversations. Respondent further stated that these voices were telling her what to  
4 say to Vredenburg<sup>2/</sup>. Respondent stated that she does not know who planted the communication  
5 device, that these voices are often those of her own immediate family, that they (the voices)  
6 threaten to rape her and that they also talk about molesting children. Respondent has reported the  
7 threats and talk of child molestation to the police. The police have taken Respondent to the  
8 hospital on several occasions.

### 9 TREATMENT

10 9. Respondent has been in the mental health departments of Harbor UCLA  
11 Medical Center, UCLA Medical Center, Kaiser Sunset, and several other hospitals in the Los  
12 Angeles area.

13 10. Respondent has been diagnosed with schizophrenia and is being treated at  
14 West Central Mental Health Center by psychiatrist C. Mohr, M.D., whom she sees about once  
15 every six weeks. Respondent is currently taking numerous prescription medications, including  
16 Perphenazine, and has been receiving care at West Central Mental Health Center for  
17 approximately the past five years. She (Respondent) is currently on Social Security Disability.

### 18 ORDER

19 In consideration of the foregoing information, it appears that Respondent may be  
20 mentally and/or physically ill to the extent that her condition affects her ability to practice  
21 licensed registered nursing safely,

22 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, pursuant to Business and Professions Code  
23 section 820:

24 1. That Respondent shall submit to an examination conducted by a physician  
25 specializing in psychiatry or a psychologist selected by the Board, or its designee, to determine  
26

27  
28 2. Respondent would stop talking to Vredenburg and then tell Vredenburg what the  
voices told her to tell him.

1 whether she is mentally and or physically ill to such an extent as to affect her ability to practice  
2 registered nursing safely,

3 2. That the examination of Respondent shall be conducted at a time that is  
4 mutually convenient to Respondent and the examiner selected by the Board, but in no case later  
5 than thirty (30) days after the service of this Order;

6 3. That the examination shall continue from day to day until completed, and  
7 shall include any and all examinations and tests ordered and or conducted by the examining  
8 psychiatrist or psychologist as considered necessary in his/her professional judgment. The results  
9 of said examination shall be reported by the examiner in a detailed written report, setting forth  
10 his/her findings and conclusions, whereupon such report shall be delivered to the Interim  
11 Executive Officer of the Board of Registered Nursing, with a copy of said report to be provided  
12 to Respondent; and,

13 4. That the failure of Respondent to comply with this Order by either refusing  
14 or failing to cooperate with the examiner shall constitute grounds for disciplinary action against  
15 Respondent's Registered Nurse License, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 821:  
16

17 IT IS SO ORDERED this 21<sup>st</sup> day of January, 2010.  
18  
19

20 *for* *Louise Bailey*  
21 LOUISE R. BAILEY, M.ED., RN  
22 Interim Executive Officer  
23 Board of Registered Nursing  
24 Department of Consumer Affairs  
25 State of California  
26  
27  
28

Petition and Order